

Players, Fans Excited About Broncs' State Berth



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Lesterville's Mike Pavel stands ready in the batter's box during the Broncs' 8-5 victory over Freeman in the District 6B Amateur Baseball Tournament on Thursday. The win earned the Broncs their first state amateur baseball tournament berth since 1997.

Amateur Baseball: Lesterville Headed To State For First Time Since 1997

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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The community of Lesterville has a rich history of amateur baseball, but its hometown team, the Broncs, had not been to a state tournament since 1997.

That changed on Thursday night in Scotland, when the Broncs qualified for state with an 8-5 victory over Freeman in the District 6B Tournament.

"This morning was awesome," said Broncs manager Kevin Bloch, the only remnant of the 1997 team still in uniform. "I got a lot of calls from former players congratulating us."

Despite the 16-year absence from state, the fifth-seeded Broncs were

business-as-usual as they prepped for the matchup with the seventh-seeded Black Sox.

"We tried to stay focused. We wanted to get the job done and not have to play on Saturday," said Mike Pavel, who first played for the Broncs as a Legion pickup player in 1999. "We knew we have the talent. It was whether or not we came ready to play."

But the potential historical moment still hung in the minds of some players, especially a veteran like Darrin Svacina.

"We were all excited, knowing that we had a good chance," he said. "We thought that last night would be our best chance to go to state."

The Broncs got off to a quick start, scoring five runs in the second inning to get on the board, then adding two to build up a 7-0 lead.

"It helped a lot," said Tyler Edler, who went the distance on the mound in Thursday's victory. "(Freeman starter) Brett Scherschligt had pitched against us earlier this year, and beat us 8-2. Then the way he pitched against Wynot (2-1 Freeman win earlier in the tournament), he was hitting his spots."

"When we got out 5-0, it took a load off."

Lesterville took an 8-1 lead into the ninth, when the Black Sox got on a roll. A pair of bad-bounce hits helped Freeman get to within three, 8-5, with Scherschligt — Freeman's top power threat —

standing at the plate as the tying run.

"We tried to keep doing what we'd been doing, keep cool," Pavel said. "When you panic, that's when things fall apart."

Edler, though, admitted he was on edge in that situation.

"I was nervous, and I know everyone else was, too. It was not a bad situation for them (Freeman)," he said. "My blood pressure was pretty high, and (Bloch) said his blood pressure was pretty high at that point, too."

Scherchligt's ground ball back to Edler sent the Broncs back to state, and set off a few debates on Thursday night.

"It's been exciting for a lot

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USD Ticket Pack For SDSU Game Sells Out

VERMILLION — South Dakota's football ticket pack that included admission to the South Dakota State game on Nov. 16 at the DakotaDome has sold out within the first 48 hours of going on sale.

Fans can still get tickets for the SDSU game by buying season tickets or becoming members of the Howling Pack. Tickets are still available for USD's home games against UC-Davis (Aug. 31), Missouri State (Oct. 5), Indiana State (Oct. 12), Youngstown State (Nov. 2) and Montana (Nov. 9).

To order tickets or register for the Howling Pack, please call the USD ticket office at 605-677-5959.

Legion All-Star Games Monday

BY WATERTOWN PUBLIC OPINION SPORTS STAFF

LAKE NORDEN — Forty-two players from the across the state have been selected to play in the South Dakota Amateur Baseball Coaches Association's American Legion Baseball All-Star games.

The games are set to begin at 5:30 p.m. Monday night in Lake Norden.

The game is for players who are in their final year of American Legion baseball. They were selected from a group of players nominated by coaches across the state.

The players will be divided into North and South teams and will play two games.

Players selected to play in the game include Phillip Schroeder and Matthew Randall of Platte-Geddes;

Other players include Mitch Moes and Brody Ries of Watertown; Austin Gilbertson and Chris Kangas of Kingsbury County; Fred Noem, Trevor and Justin Cassels and Zach Toben of Clear Lake; Lane Hovde, Jeff McGraw and Levi Sauder of Clark-Willow Lake; Jon Wilson and Jace Goodfellow of Volga; Brandon Nelson, Aaron Quinn and Paul Sitter of Big Stone City and Brady Bury and Spencer Lux of Webster; Mitch Hansen, Jacob Patterson and Mitch Foster of Flandreau;

Brandon Stanley, Jamie Jorgenson and Matthew Thorson of Groton; Connor Farrar and DJ Lesseyoung of Rapid City; Seth Bjordal, Alex Linneman, Justin Kautz and Seth Peterson of Sioux Falls West; Zach Bies and Jon Forrester of Miner-McCook; Lucas Engen of Aurora; Ryan Goodwin, Austin Wagner and Willie Welch of Pierre; Lane Meyer of Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern; Tommy Gardner and Jacob Bruget of Brandon and Matt Woods of Canton.

Burt Tulson of Lake Norden is the president of the SDABCA and Don Greenfield of Clark is the secretary-treasurer. Dave Gassman of Canova is the vice president. The South Dakota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame is located in Lake Norden.

Fla Gulf Coast, Miami To Face NU

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska has announced its non-conference men's basketball schedule, which features games against 2013 NCAA tournament Sweet 16 participants Florida Gulf Coast and Miami.

The athletic department said Friday that seven of the Cornhuskers' 12 non-conference games will be played in the new Pinnacle Bank Arena.

After an exhibition against Division II Nebraska-Kearney on Nov. 4, the Huskers will open the regular season against Florida Gulf Coast on Nov. 8. The Eagles return four starters from the surprise team of the NCAA tournament that finished 26-11, Miami, which went 29-7 last season, visits Lincoln on Dec. 4.

Nebraska also plays road games against NCAA tournament qualifiers Creighton and Cincinnati.

Golf | Hillcrest Pro-Am Notebook

Rain Puts Pause To Play



BY JEREMY HOECK
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The phrase 'when it rains, it pours' made literal sense on Friday at Yankton's Hillcrest Golf & Country Club.

One rain delay became two, and eventually three.

Eventually, though, the group of 208 professional and amateur golfers were able to finish their second rounds Friday at the 40th annual Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am.

Klinton Krieger, a third-year pro from Cheyenne, Wyo., pointed out that golfers typically prepare for any kind of weather — from 95-degree days like Hillcrest saw last summer to persistent downpours like Friday.

"If you're really prepared for it, you should be OK," Krieger said during a delay. "Everything is wet, but you just have to deal with it as best you can. At least everyone's dealing with it at the same time."

Rainy conditions prompted three delays on the day, pushing back the morning group nearly five hours, and the afternoon group back, as well.

There was a nearly hour-long delay in the morning, and another one at noon that lasted until 2 p.m. Golfers were sent back out, only to be called back after 15 minutes when rain started pouring.

That delay lasted until around 4 p.m., when the weather finally relented enough that play could resume. From there, the rest of the day was fine and every group was able to finish.

Sean Riley, the head PGA pro at Hillcrest, made an announcement during the final delay that was in part to provide updates but also to help alleviate concerns by golfers.

"We don't want to scrap the day," he said, later adding, "This is a preparatory tour for the PGA; they don't scrap rounds. The tour can't control it and we can't control it."

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Rain was the big story on day two of the Hillcrest Pro-Am golf tournament on Friday in Yankton. Three delays pushed morning groups back nearly five hours, and afternoon groups back further.

ABOVE: With an umbrella close by, professional golfer Nate Barbee measures his putt on the No. 1 hole Friday at the Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am at Yankton's Hillcrest Golf & Country Club.

LEFT: Amateur golfer Brad Cavitt tees off on the No. 2 hole Friday at the Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am at Yankton's Hillcrest Golf & Country Club.

PHOTOS BY JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Thursday's First-Round Leaders

Friday's Round Not Completed By Presstime

Professional	Amateur
64 — Josh Persons, Nate Barbee	68 — Ryan Elwood
65 — Brady Schnell, Ryan Dillon	70 — Steve Weiland
66 — Jordan Krantz, Josh Esler, Sam Jandel	71 — Jason Tramp
67 — Neil Johnson, Peter Lunsburgh	72 — Dillon Cooney
68 — Austin Graham, Austyn Karle, Jack Newman, Jeff Berkshire	74 — Scott Hillunen
	76 — Jace Gultmiller
	77 — Chris Schaefer, Michael Kuchta, Mike Riley, Neil Chapman

follow the tourney online

■ Be sure to check our site for a story from Saturday's 3rd round of play. yankton.net

District 6A Tourney Game Pushed Back To Today

Reds Win State Tourney Opener

Friday's elimination game in the District 6A Amateur Baseball Tournament was postponed due to rain.

The matchup between the Vermillion Red Sox and Mitchell will be played at noon today (Saturday) at Riverside Field. The championship game between Yankton and the Sioux Falls Saints will follow. The final game of the day will feature today's Game 1 winner against the Game 2 loser, with that team claiming the second state berth out of the district.

District 6B

Wynot 8, Irene 7

SCOTLAND — Matt Hames' third hit of the game plated Wynot's game-winning run as the Expos edged Irene 8-7 in the District 6B Amateur Baseball Tournament on Thursday in Scotland.

The victory sends Wynot to the state tournament as Rep. No. 2 out of the district. Lesterville, which beat Freeman earlier in the evening, will be Rep. No. 3.

The final berth (Rep. No. 4) out of the district will be decided today (Saturday) when Irene plays Freeman, scheduled for a 5 p.m. start. The district champion and Rep. No. 1 will be decided later, when Tabor and Crofton match up in the district final.

In the bottom of the ninth, singles by Ryan Heimes and Scott Heine, sandwiching a walk to Lee Heimes, loaded the bases for Hames' game-winner.

Ryan Heimes also finished with three hits for Wynot. Scott Heine added two hits for Wynot, which ousted the Cardinals 14-7.

Mike King had a home run and a double to

lead Irene. Matt Sees also had two hits. Lee Heimes, who pitched the final 7 1/3 innings in relief, picked up the win. Ben Sees took the loss.

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Ben Sees and Josh Wenande; Scott Morrison, Lee Heimes (2) and Scott Heine

VFW Teener Class AA 13-14 Minors Reds 5, S.F. East 4

WATERTOWN — Trey Bakke's two-run single in the bottom of the seventh plated the tying and game-winning runs as the Yankton Reds rallied from a 4-0 deficit to beat Sioux Falls East 5-4 in the opening game of pool play in the S.D. State Class AA 13-14 Minors baseball tournament on Friday in Watertown.

Bakke, Jack Schoenfelder, Garrett Tennant and Caid Koletzky had hits for Yankton. Koletzky stole four bases in the win.

A Schoenfelder RBI single and a run-scoring groundout by Jackson Somsen helped Yankton pull to within 4-3 after six innings. After walks to Koletzky and Carter Peterson — and steals to move to third and second — Bakke singled to right to plate the final two runs.

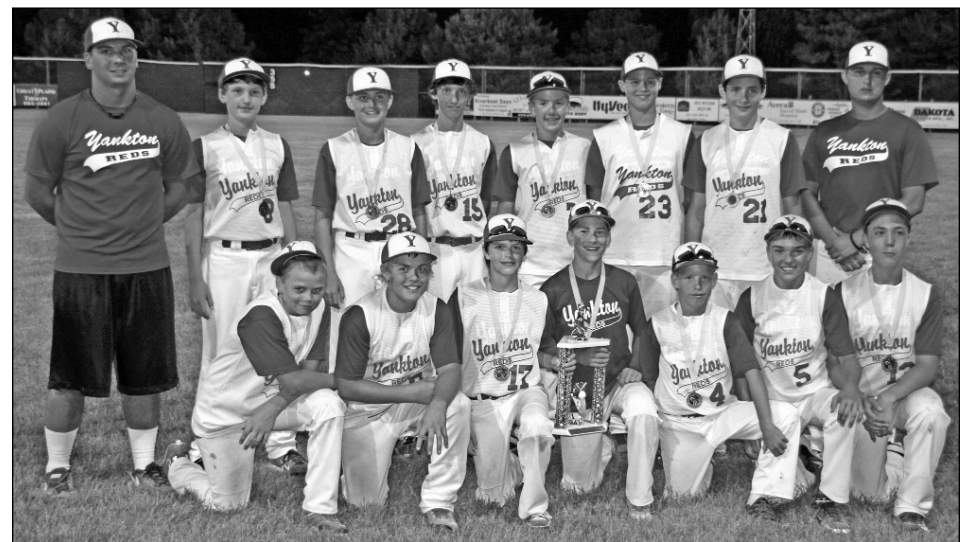
Koletzky pitched the final three innings to pick up the victory in relief of Kellen Franzen.

The Reds finish pool play today (Saturday), facing Pierre at 8 a.m. and the Brandon Valley River Cats at 6 p.m. The championship in the tournament is set for Sunday.

Region 1B Championship Game Ppd

ALCESTER — The championship game in the Region 1B VFW Teener Baseball Tournament, featuring Garretson against Beresford, was postponed to today (Saturday) at 10 a.m. in Alcester.

If Beresford wins, the "if" game will follow. The region champion will advance to state, Aug. 9-11 in Flandreau.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Yankton VFW Reds baseball team earned first place at the Sioux Falls Classic Tournament on July 12-14. Members of the team include (front) Caid Koletzky, Trey Bakke, Ben Wold, Kellen Franzen, Miles Carda, Isaiah Woods, Wyatt Duncan, (back) Coach Nik Davis, Jackson Somsen, Jack Schoenfelder, Nathan Eichacker, Carter Peterson, Tanner Fitzgerald, Garrett Tennant and Coach Chris Marlow. The Reds are playing in the State Class AA 13-14 Year-Old Minors Tournament, which began on Friday in Watertown.

Beresford 10, Menno 0

ALCESTER — Beresford's Caleb Johnke scattered four hits as Beresford blanked Menno 10-0 in an elimination game in the Region 1B VFW Teener baseball tournament on Thursday in Alcester.

Kaleb Peterson had three of Beresford's 13 hits.

Parker Schultz, Cody Manninga, Derrick Lehr and Logan Mudder had hits for Menno. Brody Bierle took the loss.

Beresford 3, Alcester 0 (10)

ALCESTER — Beresford needed 10 innings to escape host Alcester 3-0 in an elimination game in the Region 1B Amateur Baseball Tournament on Thursday.

Chris Kroupenske and A.J. Schmidt each had three hits for Beresford, which ousted Alcester 9-3.

Lyle LaFromboise had two of Menno's hits. Kroupenske struck out seven batters in three innings of relief for the win. Logan Busch started, striking out nine in his seven innings of work. Grant Johnson, who struck out five in 6 2/3 innings of re-

lief, took the loss.

Garretson 10, Alcester 0

ALCESTER — Garretson advanced to the championship of the Region 1B Tournament with a 10-0 victory over host Alcester on Wednesday.

Matt Johnson and Micah Mader each had two hits and a run scored to lead Garretson.

Mitch Johnson, Gavin Doering and Sam

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